

Claims

1. A method for making composite active particles for use in a pharmaceutical composition for pulmonary inhalation, the method comprising jet milling active particles in the presence of particles of additive material and, optionally, air or a compressible gas or fluid.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the additive material comprises an amino acid, a metal stearate or a phospholipid.
- 10 3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the additive material comprises one or more of leucine, isoleucine, lysine, valine, methionine, phenylalanine.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the additive material comprises 15 leucine and preferably L-leucine.
5. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the additive material comprises magnesium stearate.
- 20 6. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the additive material comprises lecithin.
7. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the jet milling is carried out at an inlet pressure of between 0.1 and 3 bar.
- 25 8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1-6, wherein the jet milling is carried out at an inlet pressure of between 3 and 12 bar.
9. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least 30 90% by volume of the active particles are less than 20 μ m in diameter prior to jet milling.

10. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least 90% by volume of the additive particles are less than 20 μm in diameter prior to jet milling.
- 5 11. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein jet milling is carried out at temperatures below room temperature.
12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein jet milling is carried out at a temperature below 10°C and preferably below 0°C.
- 10 13. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein carrier particles are also jet milled with the active particles and the particles of additive material.
- 15 14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the carrier particles have a particle size of at least 20 μm .
- 15 15. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the carrier particles have a particle size of less than 30 μm , preferably less than 20 μm and more preferably less than 20 10 μm .
16. Composite active particles for use in a pharmaceutical composition made using a method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.
- 25 17. Composite active particles as claimed in claim 16, for pulmonary inhalation.
18. Composite active particles as claimed in either of claims 16 and 17, wherein the additive material forms a coating on the surface of the additive particles.
- 30 19. Composite active particles as claimed in claim 18, wherein the coating is a discontinuous coating.

20. Composite active particles as claimed in either of claims 18 and 19, wherein the coating of additive material is not more than 1 μm in thickness.
21. Composite active particles as claimed in any one of claims 16-20, having an
5 MMAD of not more than 10 μm .
22. Composite active particles as claimed in claim 21, having an MMAD of not more than 5 μm , not more than 3 μm , not more than 2 μm , or not more than 1 μm .
- 10 23. Composite active particles as claimed in any one of claims 16-22, wherein at least 90% by weight of the composite active particles have a diameter of not more than 10 μm .
- 15 24. Composite active particles as claimed in claim 23, wherein at least 90% by weight of the particles have a diameter of not more than 5 μm , not more than 3 μm , or not more than 1 μm .
- 20 25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising composite active particles as claimed in any one of claims 16-24.
26. A composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein the composition is for pulmonary inhalation.
27. A composition as claimed in either of claims 25 and 26, wherein the
25 composition is a dry powder composition.
28. A composition as claimed in claim 27, wherein the composition further comprises carrier particles.
- 30 29. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 25-28, wherein the composition has a FPF(ED) of at least 70%.

30. A composition as claimed in claim 29, wherein the FPF(ED) is at least 80%, at least 85%, or at least 90%.
31. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 25-28, wherein the
5 composition has a FPF(MD) of at least 60%.
32. A composition as claimed in claim 29, wherein the FPF(MD) is at least 70%, at least 80%, or at least 85%.
- 10 33. A dry powder inhaler containing a composition as claimed in any one of claims 25-32.
34. Use of an additive material as a milling aid in the jet milling of an active material.